

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-20 (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A load transfer ~~assembly element~~ for a vehicle door having an inner panel and an outer panel, the load transfer element comprising:
- ~~a load transfer element disposed generally within the vehicle door;~~
 - a first portion having a first reaction surface attached to the inner panel and a second surface facing the outer panel and formed on an opposite side of said first portion from said first surface ~~disposed on said load transfer element and facing an outer panel of the vehicle door;~~ and
 - a second portion extending from said first portion and having an upper surface and a lower surface formed substantially perpendicular to said second surface; ~~reaction surface disposed on said load transfer element and facing an inner panel of the vehicle door, said second reaction surface formed generally opposite said first reaction surface;~~
- wherein ~~said load transfer element transfers an applied load from said first reaction surface to said second reaction surface while minimizing energy absorption of said applied load~~ a clearance is defined between said lower surface of said second portion and said second surface of said first portion.

22. (Currently Amended) The load transfer ~~assembly element~~ of Claim 22, wherein said ~~main body~~first portion further comprises an attachment arm, ~~said attachment arm~~ operable to fixedly attach said ~~load transfer element~~said first portion to ~~said the~~ inner panel.

23. (Currently Amended) The load transfer element of Claim 22, wherein said attachment arm is integrally formed with said ~~said load transfer element~~first portion.

24. (Currently Amended) The load transfer element of Claim 21, wherein said ~~second reaction surface is in engagement with said inner panel~~clearance is positioned to avoid transferring a predetermined load applied at the outer panel to the inner panel.

25. (Currently Amended) The load transfer element of Claim 21, wherein said ~~first reaction surface is spaced apart from said outer panel~~said predetermined load is applied to the outer panel by an FMVSS 214 barrier.

26. (Currently Amended) A door assembly comprising:
 an inner panel;
 an outer panel fixedly attached to said inner panel, said inner and outer panels defining an interstitial space therebetween; and
 a load transfer element generally disposed within said interstitial space, said load transfer element operable to transfer an applied load from said outer panel to said inner panel while minimizing energy absorption of said applied load; and

wherein said load transfer element is positioned within said interstitial space so as to avoid a test load from an FMVSS 214 barrier.

27. (Previously Presented) The door assembly of Claim 26, wherein said load transfer element is fixedly attached to said inner panel.

28. (Previously Presented) The door assembly of Claim 26, wherein said load transfer element is spaced apart from said outer panel.

29. (Cancelled).

30. (Currently Amended) A vehicle comprising:

a door aperture having a first structural member and a second structural member;

a door matingly received in said door aperture and supported by said first and second structural members, said door comprising:

an inner panel hingedly attached to said first structural member at a first end and selectively engaging said second structural member at a second end;

an outer panel fixedly attached to said inner panel, said inner and outer panels defining an interstitial space therebetween; and

a load transfer element generally disposed between said outer panel and said second structural member, said load transfer element operable to transfer an applied load from said outer panel to said second structural member while

minimizing energy absorption of said applied load;

wherein said load transfer element is positioned within said interstitial space so as to avoid a test load from an FMVSS 214 barrier.

31. (Currently Amended) The vehicle of Claim 30, ~~wherein said further~~
comprising a sensor is disposed on said second structural member.

32. (Currently Amended) The vehicle of Claim ~~30~~31, wherein said sensor is generally disposed between said inner panel and said second structural member.

33. (Currently Amended) The vehicle of Claim ~~30~~31, wherein said sensor is an air bag sensor.

34. (Previously Presented) The vehicle of Claim 30, wherein said load transfer element is fixedly attached to said inner panel.

35. (Previously Presented) The door assembly of Claim 30, wherein said load transfer element is spaced apart from door outer panel.

36. (Cancelled)